

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

GUIDELINES FOR INFANT BAPTISM

1. One or both parents are to be active in the practice of the Catholic faith and have an active relationship with the church. Registration in the parish is expected.
2. Summary guidelines for selecting *godparents*:
 - ◆ Have completed their sixteenth year
 - ◆ A Catholic who is confirmed in the Catholic Church and is regularly celebrating the sacrament of Eucharist. One who leads a life in harmony with the faith and understands the seriousness of the role to be undertaken.
 - ◆ Sacramentally married in the Catholic Church (if married)
 - ◆ Not the father or mother of the one to be Baptized
3. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a Baptism preparation session *before* the Baptism can be scheduled. For Epiphany parishioners, the baptism preparation session is valid for three years.
4. The Baptismal garment and the candle used at the Baptism will be given to the parents at the celebration.
5. *Out of respect for the sacredness of the Sacrament of Baptism*, parents may designate *one* person to take photos at the baptismal font. This person should be someone other than the parents or godparents. We kindly request that photographs or videos **not** be taken during the remaining parts of the Baptism service. Ample time is available *after* the celebration to take photos with the presider in the church or chapel as well as any additional family photos.
6. Infant Baptisms are celebrated:
 - ◆ Once a month during a Baptism Service (not a Mass).

NOTE: Letters of Membership and Permission for a Baptism to be celebrated at another parish will only be sent **after** registered parishioners have attended the Baptism Preparation Session and parents provide our office with the information necessary to produce a formal letter.

7. Parents may Schedule a Baptism by calling Epiphany's Faith Formation Office at (281)578-8271, ext. 285. This is done *after* attendance at the Baptism Preparation Session, *after* the baby is born, and *after* providing our office with the completed Baptism Registration Form. Schedule the Baptism at least two weeks *before* the date desired. Travel arrangements, etc. should *not* be made until the Baptism is formally scheduled with the Faith Formation Office. The child's state-issued birth certificate and the Godparent Form(s) are due in our office two weeks prior to the baptism. Each Godparent needs to complete a form and return it to our office. All forms are distributed to parents at the Baptism Class.
8. **On the day of the Baptism**, plan to arrive *at least 30 minutes* before the scheduled celebration time. Parents, infants and godparents are to meet with the Baptismal team for final instructions.
9. **Certificates for Baptisms** are distributed at the end of the Baptism celebration to parents who have provided the child's Birth Certificate copy to our office. Baptisms may be celebrated without a birth certificate but the parents will not receive a Baptism Certificate until our office has received a copy of the child's state-issued birth certificate.